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In Confidence: not to be quoted without
reference to the Laboratory.

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CRUISE REPORT

F.R.V. "MARA"

November 11th - 30th, 1963

Objective Clyde 0-group herring survey

Due to persistently bad weather work was possible on only ten days of the three weeks scheduled for this cruise. During these the inner reaches of the Clyde from the north of Arran northwards were investigated thoroughly by echo-sounder. Small mid-water traces were fairly wide-spread within this area but heavy traces were encountered only in Loch Striven and in Lower Loch Fyne. Sampling of these with the Isaac-Kidd trawl suggested that they were predominantly composed of sprats.

Considerable trouble was experienced with the Isaac-Kidd trawl due to buckling of the depressor plate. This component is certainly not strong enough for the strains to which it is subjected and will require modification. In view of the small vertical gape of the net and the restricted vertical range of the traces it was difficult to judge whether the net was in fact fishing at the correct depth. A depth tele-meter or head-line transducer is essential if efficient use is to be made of this gear. The net not being at the depth of maximum fish concentration may account for the fact that in heavy traces the greatest catch was 360 sprats in a 20 minute tow.

Beach seining was carried out in Finart Bay, Loch Long, Loch Riddon and Loch Gair without catching any fish.

ALAN SAVILLE
G. McPHERSON

10th December, 1963.